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PREFACE.

SEVEN years have elapsed since the New York Medical and Physical Journal entered the lists of periodical competition in the laudable effort to communicate and diffuse medical information. It has encountered, during this period, difficulties and discouragements of which some have been common to every journal that ever was undertaken in the city of New York, and speedily destructive of the existence of nearly all; while others have been peculiar to itself, arising from circumstances which it were needless to enumerate at the present time. Its success in the arduous struggle has been sufficiently attested by the internal evidences of increase and improvement which it has progressively and steadily exhibited, and has been more than gratifying to the pride of its numerous friends, as well as of all those members of the profession in the state of New York, who regard the advancement of its literary and scientific character as paramount to all selfish and party considerations. For this triumph it has been mainly indebted to the spirited exertions and indefatigable perseverance of its late principal editor and original projector, DR. JOHN B. BECK, Professor of Materia Medica in the University of the State of New York. It will, therefore, be a source of satisfaction to the patrons of the work to be informed, that, although the public and private avocations of Dr. Beck will, hereafter, forbid his exclusive attention to the

editorial department, his zeal for the prosperity of the work remains unabated, and his assistance will never be withheld. Of the other gentlemen who have lately been associated as editors, the valuable services will likewise be continued, and in addition, those of a number of distinguished members of the profession have been secured, who have united to support the Journal by their contributions. Their names will accompany each number.

In order to meet the increase of materials, which this new arrangement will afford, to convey as much *practical* information as the majority of contemporaneous journals afford, and as the taste and necessities of the medical reader seem to require, the size of the Journal has been considerably enlarged, and will be still further enlarged, as occasion requires. Plates will be furnished as often as the illustration of subjects renders them necessary—not so much, however, with a view to adorn the Journal, as to inform the reader. They will be always executed in the best style. An increase of the price commensurate with the augmented cost will not be deemed unreasonable.

In assuming the duties of active editor, the subscriber feels sensibly the numerous responsibilities which devolve upon him, and which are not rendered the less arduous by the busy and restless spirit of rivalry which stimulates the conductors of the medical periodical press to excel and outstrip each other in the variety, extent, and novelty of the information so abundantly furnished by the daily, almost hourly, development of new facts and improvements in medicine and its collateral branches. If a sincere zeal to promote the interests of his professional brethren, a ready access to the most recent sources of intelligence, and no inconsiderable experience can enable

him to discharge this part of his duty to the satisfaction of the public, he trusts he shall not be found wanting in its performance. The interests of practitioners in the country, who are debarred, by their situation, from the advantages afforded by public libraries and reading rooms, will be constantly borne in mind and specially consulted.

In the *original* department, essays, which are characterized by ingenious speculation, novel practice, or useful discoveries, will always be preferred to those, whose only recommendations are encyclopedic lore or timeserving compilation.

Reviews shall be written in the spirit of impartiality and candor—and a liberal policy shall ever be pursued towards authors. While captious criticism and personalities will ever be sacredly avoided, as the bane of medical courtesy, and of the true interests of science; indiscriminate praise will be alike eschewed, as defeating the high objects of honorable and impartial criticism, and humiliating to the character of a work, which seeks public approbation, not by unlimited and servile adulation, but by a manly and an independent exercise of judgment, of which the decision can only be appreciated in proportion as the praise or censure it bestows is cautious and discriminative.

In requesting the aid of the profession generally, to the support of the New York Medical and Physical Journal, the editor hopes that it will be distinctly understood, that its objects are general—intended to advance the cause of medical science, and elevate the standard of medical reputation. Its pages are opened to the members of the profession at large, without party or sectional exclusion. The name of the work indicates not any limitation to its views, nor any re-

striction to its attachments, but simply its place of publication. And when it is considered that this place is the emporium of the western hemisphere, the capital of the most growing, flourishing, and powerful state in the United States of America, possessing within itself a numerous body of physicians, distinguished for their talents, intelligence, and practical skill, that it is connected by means of its vast commercial facilities with every portion of the habitable globe, and is, moreover, supplied with abundant materials in its extensive hospitals and dispensaries for the support of a medical journal, the advantages of its *locality* will not appear slight or worthy of disparagement.

DANIEL L. M. PEIXOTTO.

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ERRATA IN NUMBER XXX.

Page 238, line 25, instead of "generally brown," read "generally becomes brown."
" 241, line 5, instead of "Morris," read "Monro."
" 243, line 16, insert "the laws of," before "light."
" " " 20, instead of "there," read "then."
" 244, note, read "Monro," instead of "Morris."
" 251, " line 7, read "cold," instead of "dolc."
" 256, line 5 from bottom, read "unseasonable," instead of "unreasonable."
" 257, line 22, for "deterimus," read "detenimus."
" " note, line 3 from bottom, for "pectuarum," read "petechiarum."
" 263, line 22, read, instead of "in general," "we generally."
" 264, note, first word should be "Siquidem," the fourth, "quoque."
" 269, line 13 from bottom, read "heart," instead of "heat."
" 306, line 13 from top, for "every twenty-four hours," read "every two hours."

*** The binder will transfer this page to the end of Vol. I. New Series.